

# INTRODUCTION

## HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

**T**his manual is intended as a study guide for preparing to take the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Exam that was developed jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Canada. Check with the pesticide regulatory agency within your individual state, tribe, territory, or federal department/agency to determine whether this manual prepares you for commercial or private applicator certification or recertification or registered technician status. This manual satisfies the basic applicator training requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). More specific pest management information and pesticide terminology are covered in category-specific manuals.

The National Core Exam is based on information found in this manual. The table of contents helps you identify important topics and understand how they relate to one another through the organization of headings and subheadings. You may also check the index for key words and concepts. Each

chapter begins with a set of learning objectives that help you focus on what you should learn from the chapter. Questions on the certification exam pertain directly to these learning objectives. As you prepare for the exam, read each chapter and answer the review questions located at the end. These questions are not on the certification exam. They are provided to help you prepare for the exam. The answers to the review questions are found in *Appendix A*, and a sample test is found in *Appendix E*.

Other appendices, including a glossary, provide supplemental information that help you understand the topics covered in the chapters. Terms in bold type throughout the manual are defined either within the text or in the glossary.

This certification manual benefits both you and the general public. By learning how to handle pesticides correctly, you will be able to protect yourself, others, and the environment from pesticide misuse. For further information, visit: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) and select “Pesticides.”

